

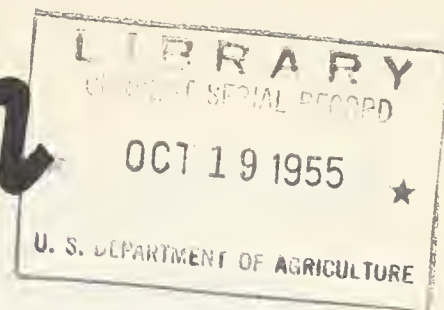
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# Foreign



# CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1955

VOLUME 71

NUMBER 15

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

FRENCH MOROCCO INCREASED  
CITRUS EXPORTS IN 1954-55

Citrus exports from French Morocco reached a record high of 4,031,000 boxes in the 1954-55 export season (October through June). This is a 26-percent increase over last season's exports of 2,973,000 boxes. The exports were mostly oranges, with France taking 83 percent of the total citrus exports. The Soviet Union purchased 315,000 boxes of citrus this year, as compared with 126,000 boxes last year.

CUBA CLARIFIES REQUIREMENTS FOR SEED POTATO IMPORTS

Cuba has accepted requirements of U. S. No. 1 grade with respect to dirt and foreign material in certified seed potatoes. Dirty potatoes will not be permitted to enter Cuba.

CANADIAN BEAN PRODUCTION UP,  
DRY PEAS DOWN, IN 1955

The 1955 bean production in Canada is officially estimated at 752,000 bags of 100 pounds, or 22 percent larger than the 1954 production of 616,620 bags. Larger acreage and higher yields account for the increase.

Dry pea production estimated at 395,000 bags is 25 percent less than last year's 528,000 bags. Reduced acreage and lower yields account for the decrease.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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COMMERCIAL EXPORTS OF DRY PEAS  
AND PROSPECTS FOR 1955-56

United States exports of dry edible peas totaled 1,233,000 bags (100 pounds) during the 1954-55 marketing season, which ended July 31. This was more than double the quantities reported in either of the two previous seasons.

More than 800,000 bags of commercial exports were made to Western Europe, compared with only 120,000 bags during the previous season. The 1954 European crop was severely damaged by wet weather during the harvest season.

See table below. Text continues, next page.

United States exports of peas into specified countries

Countries	Year beginning August 1	
	1953-54	1954-55
	- - 1,000 bags - -	
Venezuela.....	163	147
Cuba.....	96	65
Canada.....	59	80
United Kingdom.....	5	260
German Republic.....	49	233
Netherlands.....	21	173
Switzerland.....	20	39
Norway.....	2	18
Panama.....	7	6
Colombia.....	29	43
Surinam.....	7	7
Belgium & Luxemburg.....	21	80
Honduras.....	1/	6
Brazil.....	13	4
Ireland.....	1	9
Sweden.....	1	4
Japan.....	13	6
Czechoslovakia.....	-	12
Other.....	36	41
Total.....	543	1,233

1/ Less than 500 pounds.

A number of complaints were received from European importers regarding the quality of peas from the United States. These complaints largely concerned excessive weevil damage and bleach. It is imperative that United States shipping interests grade peas more carefully in order to develop profitable outlets in foreign markets. Most of the exports to other countries, totaling about 400,000 bags, were shipped to regular customers in Venezuela, Cuba, and Canada. Exports to Colombia have been expanding rapidly.

Prospects for export outlets in Europe are not as favorable for the current marketing season as those of last season. According to latest estimates, the United Kingdom expects to double last year's production of 1,366,000 bags, Belgium and increase of 25 percent over a 580,000-bag crop, and Italy 7 percent more than the 1954 crop of 260,000 bags. Crops in the Scandinavian countries have been damaged by a severe drought, and Sweden, one of the more important producers, expects a decrease of 15 percent in production. Sweden normally exports about 85,000 bags, principally to Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

#### IRANIAN DRIED DATE SITUATION

The 1955 dried date crop in Iran may be about 10,000 tons smaller than the 1954 crop, according to preliminary estimates from Teheran. Despite the decrease in production, exports in 1955-56 are expected to be almost as large as in 1954-55, as Iranian exporters are trying to improve packaging of dates for export.

A production and disposition tabulation covering the 1954 and 1955 Iranian dried date crops is given below.

Dates, dried: Production and disposition,  
estimated 1954 and forecast 1955 crop years

	1954	1955
	<u>Short tons</u>	
Production. . . . .	155,000	145,000
Beginning stocks. . . . .	0	0
Exports. . . . .	36,000	35,000
Other disappearance . . . . .	119,000	110,000
Ending stocks . . . . .	0	0

Dried date exports from Iran in 1953-54 totalled 21,032 short tons. Virtually all of these exports were to Asian countries except for 3,631 tons shipped to the United States and 926 tons to Germany.

Dates, dried: Exports from Iran, by country of destination, August 23, 1953-August 21, 1954

	<u>Short tons</u>
Oman . . . . .	7,745
India. . . . .	4,391
United States. . . . .	3,631
Kuwait . . . . .	3,297
Germany. . . . .	926
Hong Kong. . . . .	590
Pakistan . . . . .	276
Other. . . . .	176
	<u>21,032</u>

#### MALAYA INCREASES RICE IMPORTS

Malaya imported during the first half of 1955 about 500 million pounds of rice, or more than double the imports in the corresponding period of the year before. An important development in the first half-year trade was the resumption of large imports from Burma. In addition to the 95 million pounds imported during the first half of 1955, from 110 to 135 million pounds have been purchased from Burma for shipment in the next few months.

MALAYA: Rice imports, January-June, 1955, with comparisons

	: January-March		: April-June		: January-June	
	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955
	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
Thailand.....	: 116	: 204	: 131	: 189	: 247	: 393
Burma.....	: 14	: 48	: 2	: 47	: 16	: 95
Indochina.....	: 1	: 9	: 3	: 2	: 4	: 11
India.....	: 0	: 3	: 0	: 4	: 0	: 7
Other countries...	: 1/	: 1/	: 1/	: 1/	: 1/	: 1/
Total.....	: 131	: 264	: 136	: 242	: 267	: 506

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Source: Malayan Statistics.

Indications are that Thailand will not have sufficient rice to meet all the demands of importing countries before the new marketing year (December-November). This may cause more of the trade to shift to Burmese rice. The trade claims, however, that the principal reason Burmese rice is selling well is because it is relatively cheap.



Imports from Burma so far this year reportedly are largely low-grade, old-crop rice, sold cheaply to clear out Government stocks. The rice has poor quality, some being used for animal feed and other being mixed with other rice and sold for human consumption. Most of the imports went to Penang, the traditional market for Burmese rice.

Singapore has purchased 1,000 tons (2.2 million pounds) of Burmese rice, reportedly as a trial shipment, for the Government stockpile. The price is indicated to be below the going market price, as the Burmese desire to develop Government-to-Government trade. This may lead to further purchases by the Singapore Government.

For the first time in several years, South India has a small-grain, parboiled rice available for import into Malaya. This rice is preferred by the Indian Tamil population. The price is about \$4.95 per 100 pounds, or about half that of Thai rice. Imports from India are expected to increase.

#### PHILIPPINE 1954-55 RICE CROP REVISED UPWARD

The final estimate of the 1954-55 rice crop of the Philippine Republic is 7,061 million pounds of rough rice from 7,559,000 acres harvested, according to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The acreage planted was 7,890,000 acres compared with 6,537,000 in 1953-54.

Despite drought that prevented considerable planting in some important areas and also typhoon damage, the Philippine crop was slightly larger than in the preceding year, and 325 million pounds more than the previous forecast. The increase is attributed primarily to a gain of 183,000 acres put into rice in southern and western Mindanao. This resulted in a production increase in that area of approximately 210 million pounds of rough rice.

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#### CANADIAN POTATO GROWERS DEMAND CURBS ON U.S. POTATO IMPORTS

British Columbia potato growers demand that their Government employ emergency measures to curtail the import of United States potatoes which, they allege, are flooding local markets. According to a member of the British Columbia Coast Vegetable Marketing Board, growers are receiving 60 cents per 100 pounds for Canadian No. 1 potatoes, and 35 cents for No. 2 potatoes.

- - - - -

#### L A T E      N E W S

Canadian grain production in 1955 is slightly less than the first forecast, according to the second official forecast of production released September 30 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The current forecast places grain crops as follows, in million bushels: Wheat 498.3, Oats 410.0, Barley 258.0, Rye 15.0, Mixed Grains 64.0, Corn 29.3, Buckwheat 2.3. Though smaller than the first forecast, crops are still sharply above the small 1954 outturn. For further detail see the next issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.



# GERMAN REPUBLIC FORECASTS LOWER PRODUCTION OF DECIDUOUS FRUITS

Official estimates of the German Republic show an expected decrease of about 35 percent in the 1955 fruit crop below last year's crop. The official estimates are much lower than earlier unofficial estimates. The smaller crop of fruit is attributable to adverse weather during the blossoming period when abnormally cold and rainy weather impeded pollination.

The following table gives the final data on fruit production in 1954 and the preliminary estimates on the 1955 crop.

Fruit production in Republic of Germany, 1954 and 1955

	1 9 5 4		1 9 5 5	
	(1,000	(1,000	(1,000	(1,000
	bu.)	short	bu.)	short
		tons)		tons)
Apples.....	74,200	1,782	43,100	1,035
Pears.....	17,300	433	16,200	405
Sweet cherries.....		148		115
Sour cherries.....		77		60
Plums, Damsons.....		411		225
Mirabelles & Greengages.....		36		23
Apricots.....		2		2
Peaches.....	1,791	43	1,713	41
Total.....		2,932		1,906

It is expected that of the 1955 crop, 45 percent will be used by the producers, 35 percent marketed as fresh fruit, and 20 percent processed.

Earlier this year, the government issued an "Ordinance on the Prevention of the Introduction of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly". This Ordinance requires fruit imported to be accompanied by a phyto-sanitary certificate declaring the fruit to be free of the fruit fly. The importer must also pay to have a German customs officer inspect the shipping room and the containers.

## Marketing Situation

Supplies of fruit this year have been sufficient with a good consumer demand and stable prices. As usual, imports have helped fill the current requirements and stabilize domestic prices. Prices for domestic fruit during the first half of 1955 have been slightly lower than during the same period in 1954. (Cont'd., next page.)

The Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry has published a revision of the 1953 "Ordinance on Legal Market Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables". The new Ordinance includes stricter grading provisions and compulsory adherences to the fixed quality standards for apples and pears and some varieties of Damson plums. The sales tax law imposing a sales tax on all "processing" operations has been amended to omit a sales tax on grading and sorting of fruit.

It is estimated that one-third of the domestic fruit production is marketed through agricultural cooperatives.

#### NICARAGUA GETS LOAN FOR DAIRY MACHINERY

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has recently signed a loan agreement with the Nicaraguan Institute of National Development whereby the Institute will get \$1.5 million for the purpose of agricultural development. About one-third of the loan is for farm improvement and soil conservation equipment, but \$540,000 has been earmarked for purchase of milk processing machinery.

An additional \$400,000 is intended for the importation of purebred livestock. The announcement does not specify the livestock under the importation program, but it is presumed that both beef and dairy cattle will be included.

#### DANISH DRIED MILK EXPORTS TO BRAZIL MAY BE REDUCED

Exports of Danish dried milk to Brazil may be reduced because of the decline in the amounts of Danish kroner available in Brazil to pay for imports from Denmark.

Brazil is an important market for Denmark's dried milk. In 1953, Denmark supplied 75 percent of Brazil's total imports of that commodity and in the first 9 months of 1954, 85 percent of total dried milk imports came from Denmark.

Trade between the two countries is on a bilateral basis. Of the goods imported by Denmark, 90 percent has consisted of coffee. With coffee prices declining, it is anticipated that the value of imports from Brazil will drop and Danish exports will be reduced. The exchange rate for Danish kroner has increased substantially, because of their reduced availability to Brazilian importers of Danish goods. As a result, Danish dried milk is becoming increasingly expensive and Brazilian importers are becoming reluctant to purchase Danish dairy products.

As a further complication, it is reported that the Nestle company in Brazil is expanding its plants for the manufacture of dried milk, which may also have the effect of limiting Brazil's imports of the Danish product.



## WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, SECOND QUARTER, 1955

Factory production of cheese and canned milk was up, but production of butter and dried milk was down in the major producing countries in the second quarter of 1955; compared with the same quarter of 1954.

Milk production in many Western European countries was hampered by weather in this quarter. Conditions in Australia were favorable, but in New Zealand droughts in important producing areas and the consequent shortage of feed greatly curtailed production. Favorable weather in Canada brought along pastures earlier than usual and milk production increased. In the United States, production was maintained at approximately the 1954 level.

Butter production in factories in the second quarter of 1955 declined 4 percent below comparable 1954. In Denmark, smaller butter output reflected the lower milk production, together with an improvement in prices for cheese over butter. Deliveries were down in Sweden and Ireland and butter production dropped sharply. In the Netherlands, milk for butter was secondary to that for other dairy products. Norway reported higher butter production in this quarter. In Australia, the increase in milk production was used wholly for butter. Output in New Zealand declined. Butter production was up in Canada, but down in the United States.

Factory production of cheese in the second quarter was about 2 percent higher than a year earlier. Output in Switzerland increased substantially as a result of the continued shift away from butter production. In the Netherlands more milk was available for cheese. Production in Denmark showed a marked gain over the earlier year, achieved at the expense of butter. Output was up in Sweden, but down in Norway. Production also declined in Australia and New Zealand. In Canada, cheese output dropped sharply, while in the United States, very little change was noted compared with last year.

Over-all canned milk production increased 3 percent in the April-June quarter of this year. Output was up in the Netherlands and the United States; but down in Australia and Canada.

Dried milk production in the second quarter of 1955 dropped just below the level of comparable 1954. A decline in output of nonfat dry milk solids in each of the four countries reporting accounted for this decrease.

Prospects for milk production are less favorable than a year ago. A prolonged spell of hot weather in Western Europe in mid-summer is believed to have affected milk production. In Australia, the outlook for milk production is bright; but in New Zealand, concern has been expressed over the feed situation in some areas. Hot dry weather in Canada also probably affected supplies of feed for winter use.

The above report is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. (See table, pp. 396, 397.)



FACTORY DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries,  
2nd quarter (calendar) 1955, with comparisons

Country and Product	Average		Total 1954	1954		1955		2nd Quarter 1955/1954
	1934-38	1946-50		2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
BUTTER								
Canada	1/ 254,774	277,868	314,835	2/ 104,832	2/ 118,631	2/ 55,779	2/ 34,437	102
United States	1,705,240	1,301,830	1,449,180	467,330	331,640	271,635	328,030	94
Belgium	46,179	55,353	97,779	29,209	31,612	20,020	-	-
Denmark	400,660	318,697	397,710	120,150	108,908	80,909	78,263	91
Finland	61,287	61,215	112,492	34,731	33,206	21,131	21,363	-
France 4/	529,000	390,471	650,000	-	-	-	-	-
Rep. of Germany	560,000	492,188	668,329	194,492	186,664	138,557	134,968	-
Ireland	89,400	68,648	88,002	30,707	38,042	14,370	3,977	89
Netherlands	201,000	155,620	183,015	52,714	57,719	42,820	25,751	91
Norway	24,930	20,049	22,882	9,002	6,887	2,840	4,651	108
Sweden	152,769	216,442	204,095	60,942	62,949	38,896	37,805	92
Switzerland 4/	57,760	36,949	65,036	20,203	16,909	10,148	11,775	87
United Kingdom	44,200	23,529	51,475	21,191	13,709	5,599	4,928	-
Argentina	65,742	100,657	114,639	-	-	-	-	-
Union of So. Africa	27,725	44,845	73,470	16,447	14,420	19,192	-	-
Australia	415,250	354,371	397,775	53,503	76,474	160,424	118,684	123
New Zealand	366,912	346,095	408,375	37,116	80,954	178,551	123,962	95
CHEESE								
Canada	1/ 119,924	114,329	84,436	27,968	34,798	14,630	6,123	96
United States	643,234	1,156,005	1,353,500	445,340	328,570	257,590	294,635	100
Denmark	68,820	123,634	179,235	59,524	51,588	33,951	37,919	106
France 10/	584,000	424,070	730,000	-	-	-	-	-
Italy 10/	523,513	491,326	741,848	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	200,000	176,926	332,585	94,514	100,362	87,623	51,800	110
Norway 12/	39,067	35,564	65,792	23,665	19,465	9,746	13,303	96
Sweden	76,059	115,005	121,845	41,469	37,539	19,437	21,032	100
Switzerland 12/	111,729	107,232	120,592	33,005	40,615	22,308	18,915	113
United Kingdom 4/	109,000	69,888	182,784	72,128	32,480	22,848	29,568	-
Argentina	67,873	203,830	198,414	-	-	-	-	-
Union of So. Africa	10,195	17,967	27,085	5,794	6,226	7,074	-	-
Australia	48,400	98,396	107,229	11,870	25,951	42,974	20,747	96
New Zealand	210,911	216,842	236,970	22,938	39,558	102,749	67,491	84

CANNED MILK										
Canada <sup>13/</sup>	104,335	266,532	308,493	110,310	95,518	53,801	50,623	105,407	96	
United States <sup>14/</sup>	1,970,189	3,170,576	2,564,210	872,770	698,950	470,265	576,900	892,515	102	
Cuba	32,564	36,655	56,196	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Denmark	40,785	58,701	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
France	28,953	57,984	127,867	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	309,952	181,222	511,250	133,211	132,364	147,888	112,399	151,000	113	
Switzerland	14,198	13,031	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
United Kingdom	378,560	219,914	258,496	133,056	55,776	53,088	69,216	-	-	
Argentina	3,159	11,914	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Australia	41,894	132,745	115,522	14,988	22,301	46,648	27,967	12,195	81	
New Zealand	11,273	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DRIED MILK <sup>18/</sup>										
Canada	26,079	70,876	100,388	35,017	33,887	16,761	13,134	36,233	103	
United States	203,555	913,436	1,379,025	492,335	284,230	236,240	319,600	485,975	99	
Belgium	5,500	6,607	34,513	14,046	11,821	3,880	-	-	-	
Denmark	2,205	16,866	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
France	7,685	3,308	35,274	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	56,438	54,468	130,673	49,041	54,552	14,095	10,318	50,600	103	
Sweden	1,351	24,566	25,862	9,665	8,503	3,623	4,118	-	-	
Switzerland	7,187	10,847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
United Kingdom	43,098	73,848	110,432	47,712	20,832	17,248	17,024	-	-	
Argentina	3,977	14,070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Australia	16,971	54,235	85,474	8,659	17,109	35,865	22,073	7,970	92	
New Zealand	17,429	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

<sup>1/</sup> Average 1935-39. <sup>2/</sup> Revised. <sup>3/</sup> Average 1948-50. <sup>4/</sup> Total production. <sup>5/</sup> Estimated. <sup>6/</sup> Average 1935-38. <sup>7/</sup> Production year ending June 30. <sup>8/</sup> Annual production figures more complete than monthly figures used in quarterly data. <sup>9/</sup> Production year ending August 31. <sup>10/</sup> Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. <sup>11/</sup> For 1948. <sup>12/</sup> Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of goats. <sup>13/</sup> Both bulk and case goods. <sup>14/</sup> Evaporated whole and condensed whole case goods only. (Estimates of production of bulk types discontinued). <sup>15/</sup> Less than a 5-year average. <sup>16/</sup> For 1937. <sup>17/</sup> For 1939. <sup>18/</sup> Total dried whole milk and dried skim milk for human consumption. <sup>19/</sup> For 1938.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. Representatives abroad and other information. October 10, 1955.



GERMAN REPUBLIC TOBACCO IMPORTS  
UP 12.6 PERCENT IN FIRST HALF, '55

Duty-paid imports of unmanufactured tobacco by German manufacturers during the first half of 1955 totaled 70.8 million pounds--up 12.6 percent from the 62.9 million pounds imported during the corresponding period of 1954.

Republic of Germany: Imports of duty-paid unmanufactured tobacco  
by country of origin during the January-June periods, 1954-55

Country of origin	January-June 1954	January-June 1955	Percent change from January-June 1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
United States	26,353	27,201	3.2
Greece	13,048	16,931	29.8
Turkey	7,068	8,407	18.9
Indonesia	3,621	4,294	18.6
Brazil	5,041	5,267	4.5
Colombia	2,779	2,842	2.3
Dominican Republic	1,814	1,821	0.4
Italy	706	801	13.5
Southern Rhodesia	658	823	25.1
Other	1,805	2,404	33.2
Total	62,893	70,791	12.6

Source: Der Aussenhandels Der Bundesrepublik Deutschland-Teil 2 June 1955.

Imports of oriental tobaccos, mainly from Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and U.S.S.R., increased about 6 million pounds from January-June 1954, reflecting increased output of oriental-type cigarettes. Imports of United States leaf increased about 1 million pounds over the first 6 months of 1954. Total imports from Italy, Japan, India, China, Canada, and Southern Rhodesia, presumably flue-cured, increased about 9 percent over the comparable period in 1954.

NYASALAND'S 1955 TOBACCO MARKET  
CLOSES; SALES DOWN

In 1955 auction market at Limbe closed for the season on August 23, with quantities sold this season totaling well below last year's amounts for all types except Burley. Prices received this year were higher than in the previous year for all types.

The greatest decline in sales as compared with 1954 occurred in fire-cured leaf. Sales this year totaled 14.7 million pounds and were 37.5 percent below last year's total. The average price received was about 22.5 U. S. cents per pound and was 42 percent higher than the 1954 average.



Sales of flue-cured tobacco in 1955 amounted to 3.66 million pounds and averaged 27.4 pence (32.0 U. S. cents) per pound. Quantity sold was 15 per cent below last year's total, while the average price received was almost 3 percent above the 1954 level.

Sales of sun-cured leaf at 2.3 million pounds were almost 1 million pounds below 1954; while average prices received were more than one-fourth higher than in 1954. Burley sales totaled 2 million pounds in 1955, slightly above the 1954 level, while the average price was about the same at 31.5 cents per pound.

Quantities sold with average prices by types for 1954 and 1955 are shown in the table below.

Type	1954			1955		
	Quantity	Price per pound		Quantity	Price per pound	
	: 1,000 pounds	: Pence	: U.S. cents	: 1,000 pounds	: Pence	: U.S. cents
Flue-cured:	4,306	:25.45	: 29.7	3,660	: 27.42	: 32.0
Fire-cured:	23,599	:13.56	: 15.8	14,746	: 19.26	: 22.5
Sun-cured :	3,299	:16.45	: 19.2	2,321	: 20.83	: 24.3
Burley :	1,949	:27.13	: 31.7	2,016	: 26.97	: 31.5

#### GOLD COAST TOBACCO IMPORTS UP

Gold Coast imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the January-March period of 1955 totaled 355,000 pounds--up 32 percent from the 269,000 pounds imported during the corresponding period in 1954. Imports were practically all from the United States--mostly of the dark-air and fire-cured types of leaf.

#### Gold Coast: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco, January-March 1955; with comparisons

Country of Origin	1953	1954	January-March	
			1954	1955
	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds	: 1,000 pounds
United States.....	1,562	1,164	269	353
Italy.....	-	-	-	2
German Republic.....	3	-	-	-
Other.....	1	1	-	-
Total.....	1,566	1,165	269	355

Source: Monthly Accounts Relating to External Trade of the Gold Coast, March 1955.

PORTUGAL TOBACCO IMPORTS  
DOWN IN FIRST HALF, '55

Portugal's imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first half of 1955 totaled 5.0 million pounds--down 7.7 percent from the 5.4 million pounds imported during the corresponding period in 1954.

Portugal: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco  
during the January-June periods, 1954-55

Country of Origin	January-June 1954	January-June 1955	Percent change from January- June 1954
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
United States	3,796	3,459	- 8.9
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	84	128	+ 52.3
Indonesia	27	46	+ 70.4
Greece	854	686	- 19.7
Italy	70	123	+ 75.7
Angola	351	434	+ 23.6
Mozambique	22	64	+ 190.9
Cuba	20	18	- 10.0
India	49	-	-
Algeria	81	-	-
Other	68	46	- 33.4
Total	5,422	5,004	- 7.7

Source: Boletim Mensal do Instituto Nacional de Estatistica, June 1955.

Imports of United States Leaf continued to decline while takings of substitute leaf from Italy and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland increased significantly from the same 6 months of 1954. Imports of colonial leaf from Angola and Mozambique were one-third larger than during the comparable period last year. Imports of cigar and oriental leaf were slightly below takings during the January-June period of 1954.

INDIA'S TOBACCO CROP  
DOWN FROM LAST SEASON

The All-India third estimate of tobacco production for the 1954-55 season places the crop at 533.1 million pounds from 837,000 acres. This is a 4-percent decrease in acreage and a 2-percent decrease in production as compared with the third estimate of the previous year. However, the final figure for production in India usually exceeds the third estimate by 4 to 6 percent, so that the total output may reach 560 million pounds as compared with a final estimate of 573 million in the previous season.

Flue-cured production is expected to total about 95 million pounds, a decrease of more than 10 percent as compared with last season's output of 106 million pounds.



FLUE-CURED TYPE LEAF  
PRODUCED IN BOLIVIA

An experimental planting of flue-cured type tobacco has been successfully harvested this year in the vicinity of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. While the amount produced was not reported, an expansion in area and production is said to be planned for next season.

Prior to these experimental plantings, the only tobacco produced domestically was dark air-cured leaf which is not considered competitive with varieties produced in the United States. Output of this leaf in 1954 was estimated at 2.1 million pounds.

Bolivian imports of United States tobacco in 1954 totaled 556,000 pounds. Most of this was shipped as cut tobacco in bulk and is used principally in the manufacture of the most popular brand of Bolivian cigarettes.

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WEST INDIAN MINISTERS IN LONDON  
TO DISCUSS BRITISH TAX POLICIES

Mr. Albert Gomes, Trinidad's Minister of Labour, Industry, and Commerce, and Mr. Norman Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, are in London to discuss British tax policies with Colonial officials. They will attend the West Indian citrus trade talks and also discuss the effect of British taxes which allegedly nullify the benefits of colonial legislation granting tax relief to "pioneer" factories established in the West Indies by British companies.

CANADA SEEKS APPLE MARKET  
IN GREAT BRITAIN

Two Canadian apple salesmen are on the way to Great Britain to seek markets for Canadian apples. They are Messrs. Lander and Meek, representatives of British Columbia Tree Fruits, Ltd.; and the United Fruit Co. of Nova Scotia. Large apple crops are expected in all Canadian districts this year.

ARGENTINA AND ITALY  
TO IMPORT POTATOES

The Argentine Institute for the Promotion of Foreign Trade has announced the purchase of 220,000 100-pound sacks of potatoes from the United States and Canada.

A decree providing for the duty-free import of about 39,000 short tons of seed potatoes has been announced in Rome, Italy. Varieties from the United States and Canada that could be imported under this decree are the Katahdin and Kennebec. Other varieties have been approved for both Eastern and Western European countries.



## CITRUS EXPORT SEASON BEGINS IN ISRAEL

The first shipment of grapefruit to Great Britain consisted of 30- to 40-thousand boxes. Grapefruit picking is now in full swing in the Jordan Valley, where the fruit ripens first. No official estimates of the citrus crop are available as yet, but it is expected to be from 10 to 20 percent above last year's crop of over 9 million boxes.

The Israeli Government is sponsoring a 2,500-acre citrus project in the coastal plain area. A new plan enables prospective grove owners to work through government-supervised companies in establishing their groves and to pay the Government back over a period of 14 years for the land and cost of establishing groves.

NAEC URGES FRANCE TO IMPORT  
LESS SPANISH CITRUS FRUIT

An advisory institution, the North African Economic Conference, has urged the French Government to reduce the amount of fruits imported. Recommendations are that imports of Spanish citrus be reduced from 6,928,000 boxes to 4,724,000 boxes to allow for an anticipated 2,362,000-box surplus of the North African crop. Exports of Algerian and Tunisian dates are expected to increase considerably to meet the demands of expanding foreign markets.

FRANCO SWISS COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN  
AFFECTS CHEESE TRADE

Trade relations between France and Switzerland, complicated by the breakdown of negotiations relative to the extension of the Commercial Agreement, has now affected cheese trade between the two countries. The French government has refused a Swiss Cheese Union request for an "anticipated quota" until an agreement was concluded. Swiss cheese producers hope that the normal heavy demand in France for Swiss cheese will compensate for the losses incurred during the period since the breakdown of negotiation.

In the past, the value of the French quota for cheese exported from Switzerland amounted to \$4.9 million. During the present negotiations the Swiss have asked for a larger quota of \$7 million, and it is expected that the bargain will be closed at about \$5.7 million.

AUSTRALIAN SHARE OF GERMAN BUTTER  
IMPORTS ANNOUNCED

The Australian share of butter to be sent to the Republic of Germany under the second import authorization, reported in the September 26 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, will probably be slightly over 2 million pounds. The import quotas apply to unsalted butter, which must be shipped direct from Australia and must clear through German customs before October 31, 1955.

Last year, no Australian butter was shipped to the German Republic and in 1953 only 100 thousand pounds of Australian butter so entered. This year's shipment, according to the Australian Parliamentary Under-secretary of Commerce, although small, provides an opportunity to open a new market for Australia's dairy produce.

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#### VEGETABLE FIBER NEWS

Haitian sisal.--The Government of Haiti has levied a special tax on sacks of foreign manufacture beginning October 1, 1955. Sacks for coffee, cocoa, and castor beans are affected. Sacks of 60 kilograms (132 pounds) or less are taxed the equivalent of 30 cents (U.S.), and those of greater weight are taxed about 50 cents each. The purpose is to encourage domestic use of sisal which is produced in Haiti and used by local bag manufacturers. India will be affected to the greatest extent, although Haitian imports of United States jute have decreased to less than a third of the quantity imported in 1950-51.

Pakistani jute.--In Pakistan the third of the Adamjee Jute Mills was placed in operation about mid-September. It has 200 looms now in operation, and the full 1,000-loom capacity was planned within 6 months. The Adamjee Jute Mills already have 2,000 looms. Total sales of Pakistani jute in foreign countries reached about 493 million pounds during July and August of this year. Early estimates indicate about 5-percent loss of the total jute crop by floods this year, but the crop is expected to be relatively large.

Indian jute.--The All India First Official Estimate of jute for 1955-56 reports the area at 1,343,000 acres compared with 1,334,000 acres reported in the first estimate in 1954. This increase of 9,000 acres or 0.7 percent is due mostly to a major increase in West Bengal because of favorable weather conditions at planting time. Small increases are reported in jute acreages in Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, and Tripura.

Jute mills of India are undergoing extensive modernization. The Indian press reported recently that the Indian National Industrial Development Corporation has decided to grant loans for modernization at an interest of 4 percent to mills. A rebate of 25 percent in taxation on imported jute machinery has been sanctioned by the Government of India. Such imports were valued at about 7.0 million dollars in 1954-55, compared with 4.7 million in 1953-54 and 3.7 million in 1952-53. During the first 3 months of 1955 approximately 22 mills were granted import licenses for jute machinery worth about 8.4 million dollars. About 28 mills have already partially modernized their machinery. (Cont'd., next page.)

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#### L A T E N E W S

A  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -percent increase in shipping freight rates by Australian exporters has been accepted by members of the British and Continental Shipping Lines. The shipping lines originally sought a 10-percent increase.



Dominican Republic sisal. - The Government of the Dominican Republic has sold the plant, machinery, and equipment of the sisal bag and cordage factory formerly owned by the Banco Agricola e Industrial de la Republica Dominicana, and the government-owned sisal plantation to Sr. Elias Gadala Maria. The terms of the contract provide for the factory to be conditioned within 18 months to produce not less than 1 million sisal bags annually for coffee and cocoa, and for the government to exempt the factory from all import taxes and charges for a period of 20 years on imports of machinery, parts, and materials necessary for expansion of the plant.

The plantation includes between 15,000 and 16,000 acres of sisal plants about 5 years old. The total capacity of current equipment can handle only about 0.4 percent of the crop, but the plans of the new owner include enough machines to be able to care for a full harvest.

Domestic annual requirements of the Dominican Republic include about 685,000 new bags for coffee and cocoa, in addition to a considerable number for rice, peanuts, beans, and other agricultural products. These bags require about 3.3 pounds of raw fiber per bag. Substantial quantities of sisal rope are also required for internal consumption.

British West African piassava. - Production of piassava in Sierra Leone in 1954 was reported at close to 12.8 million pounds, compared with the relatively small output of 5.9 million in 1953. Production was reported at 13.7 million pounds in 1951. There is only negligible domestic consumption, and exports are considered as equal to production. The United Kingdom furnishes the largest market, with the United States ranking second in importance. European countries and the Union of South Africa account for practically all of the balance of piassava exports.

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#### DOMINICAN PRODUCERS INTERESTED IN U. S. LIVESTOCK

The Dominican livestock industry recently organized the National Association of Dominican Livestock Raisers. Plans are to organize branches in most or all of the provinces. This is evidence of the growing importance of livestock in their country. The forthcoming Livestock Exposition was no doubt also a factor in organizing the Dominican Livestock Producers.

Dominican livestock producers have indicated an interest in visiting Florida and Texas livestock fairs for the purpose of purchasing breeding stock. There has also been some interest on the part of American ranchers to export live animals to the Antilles and other Caribbean areas.



## WORLD HOG SLAUGHTER TO INCREASE IN 1956

World pork production has continued to increase during 1955 in almost every pork-producing country. A moderate increase in pork production is expected for 1956, although only a few major pork-producing countries are likely to maintain the production at a higher level than in 1955. The increase was much more pronounced in 1955 than at any time since 1952.

The number of hogs to be slaughtered in 1956 will be slightly higher than in the current calendar year in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, lower in South America and Oceania, and slightly lower in Europe, especially in pork-exporting countries.

Little change from the current low prices is anticipated in 1956, because of reduced production of pork in the Netherlands and Denmark, the two important exporters in Europe. Domestic production in the United Kingdom will probably be lower than in 1955 when it was lower by about 10 percent than in the previous year. Larger imports into the United Kingdom, therefore, are anticipated. Despite the reduction in the Netherlands and Denmark, these countries still are important competitors for United Exports to Europe, South America, and the Caribbean area.

Pork supplies, especially hams, from Eastern and Western Europe will continue to be shipped to the United States. Despite the low prices, the United States still is considered a better market for their exports.

The slaughter of hogs both in Canada and the U. S. will continue to be larger than the 1946-50 average and about 20 and 15 percent, respectively, above the recent low level of 1954, but still below the 1951-52 record production. Slaughter in Western Europe, South America and Australia probably will be lower than the 1955 record production. Western Europe's slaughter although smaller than the 1955 record is still more than double the 1946-50 average. In the principal producing countries of South America slaughter during 1956 is expected to be 10-15 percent lower than a year earlier. Slaughterings in Australia during 1956 will be 2 percent smaller than 1955 record year. However, New Zealand expects to increase the number and will be about 2 percent higher than the 1955 record year.

As a result of low prices the number of hogs will be reduced in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Denmark. However, as a result of domestic support prices the number will continue to be high in Germany, France, Austria, Yugoslavia and Italy. The corn crop, of record proportions, and other feeds in the United States and Canada, during 1955 and the low price of feeds, will induce the farmers to raise as many or a few more hogs in 1956 than they did in 1955. Dry weather in many sections of Europe which reduced the feeds and also the low price of pork and pork products will discourage the exporting countries from continued increases in hog numbers.

HOGS: Number slaughtered (commercial or inspected) in specified countries, calendar year, average 1946-50, annual 1953-56

Continent and Country	Average 1946-50	1953	1954	Preliminary 1955	Indicated: 1956	Percent	
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	1955 of	1956 of
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>							
Canada 1/	4,341	4,611	4,679	5,600	6,000	120	107
Mexico 2/	1,976	2,000	2,400	2,500	2,600	104	104
United States-Inspected	50,224	53,813	52,894	60,700	64,000	115	105
-Total 3/	75,049	74,783	72,082	81,300	85,000	113	105
Cuba 4/	332	180	153	175	-	-	-
<b>EUROPE</b>							
Austria 5/	1,011	2,209	2,350	2,360	2,500	100	106
Belgium 5/	1,173	2,198	2,152	2,200	2,100	102	95
Denmark 4/	2,599	6,244	6,905	7,250	6,100	105	84
Finland 1/	223	-	-	-	-	-	-
France 4/	3,980	6,748	6,592	6,460	6,500	98	101
Germany, Western 4/	4,037	10,080	10,320	12,800	13,200	124	103
Ireland 4/	531	1,197	1,421	1,350	1,300	95	96
Italy 8/	1,804	2,246	1,775	2,300	2,600	130	113
Netherlands 5/	1,367	3,088	3,280	3,900	3,600	119	92
Norway 1/	170	445	475	570	-	120	-
Portugal 1/	318	478	441	-	-	-	-
Spain 5/	100	9/10/ 326	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden 2/	1,707	2,372	2,622	2,734	2,533	104	93
Switzerland 2/	702	1,123	1,090	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom 4/ 11/	1,707	6,906	9,056	8,150	7,740	90	95
<b>ASIA</b>							
Japan 4/	435	1,871	-	-	-	-	-
Rep. of the Philippines 2/	958	1,474	1,557	1,600	-	103	-
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>							
Argentina 1/	1,409	1,209	1,200	1,200	1,000	100	83
Brazil 4/	5,250	6,207	6,200	5,580	5,580	90	100
Colombia 4/	669	699	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay 4/	140	122	149	-	-	-	-
<b>AFRICA</b>							
Union of South Africa 4/	644	629	588	580	580	99	100
<b>OCEANIA</b>							
Australia 4/	1,584	1,486	1,714	2,150	2,100	125	98
New Zealand 4/	636	654	763	778	790	102	102

1/ Inspected slaughter. 2/ Total slaughter. 3/ Including farm. 4/ Commercial slaughter. 5/ Total official slaughter. 6/ Average for 4 years only. 7/ Average for 2 years only. 8/ Slaughter in towns of more than 5,000 persons. 9/ Slaughter in cities with more than 20,000 persons. Includes Spain, Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands. 10/ First 10 months latest data available. 11/ Great Britain only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and other information.



Increased production of hogs in future years will depend largely upon the course of hog prices and the amount of feed grain produced, but will be affected by the high economic activity both in Europe and North America. Unless new attractive Markets open in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R., no further substantial increases in production could be expected in Western Europe. Feed is perhaps one of the greatest limiting factors. However, some increase in production of hogs could be expected in the United States and Canada as a result of high economic activity and unlimited resources to expand feed production.

The total hog slaughter in 1955 in the United States is expected to be around 81 million head--13 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1952. The 1956 level is expected to be about 5 percent more than in the current year. The 1955 spring pig crop was 9 percent greater than a year earlier and the largest since 1951. The 1955 fall crop was indicated to be about 10 percent larger than a year earlier on the basis of farmer's intentions for fall breeding. The ratio of hog prices to feed prices now is about average.

Slaughter of hogs in first half 1955 was 17 percent greater than the 1954 figure. It is expected that slaughter in the second half of 1955 will be about 10 to 12 percent above a year ago. The planned increase in fall farrowings makes it likely that slaughter in the first half of 1956 will also be above a year earlier.

Hog production in Canada has shown similar trends to that in the United States. Slaughter in 1955 will be the largest in several years. As in the United States, slaughtering of hogs is expected to be larger in 1956 than the previous year. Both spring and fall pig crops in 1955 are larger than the year before. The total pig crop in Canada during 1955 probably will be the largest since 1944. Mexico's hog slaughter is at a relatively high level and is expected to be higher in 1956.

Hog production in Western Europe will be high, especially in the Republic of Germany, Austria, France, Italy, and Yugoslavia. Smaller reductions are in prospect in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, and Norway.

As a result of the poor corn harvest in Argentina, hog slaughter there probably will be lower and the future increase will depend on the production of feed. Brazil will continue to be short of pork products, causes are a feed shortage and increase consumption within the country because of improved purchasing power of the average citizen.

Hog production in the Union of South Africa continued to decline since World War II and it appears that other crops and livestock are more profitable than hog production in view of scarcity of feeds.

Production of pork both in Japan and in the Philippine Republic continues the increase started at the end of World War II. All the production is consumed locally.

NEW ANGLO-DANISH BACON AGREEMENT  
EXPECTED TO STEADY PRICES

The new Anglo-Danish bacon agreement concluded in Copenhagen for the year beginning October 2, 1955, is expected to steady prices.

The result of these discussions is contained in the following press notice dated September 15, 1955, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food:

"Discussions have taken place in Copenhagen between representatives of the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food and the Danish Bacon Board about supplies of bacon from Denmark in the year beginning on October 2nd, 1955.

The price to be paid will be related to the price realized for Danish bacon in Great Britain, with a minimum of 240 shillings per central (\$33.60/100 lbs.) (c. and f. U.S. port).

The quantity to be delivered in the last year of the three-year contract is increased to a maximum of 208,000 tons."

The price paid in the two previous years of the contract was 237 shillings/6 pence per cwt. (\$33.25, c. & f. U.K. port).

Under the new arrangements, the price above the minimum paid to Denmark will be related to the price in the United Kingdom market from week to week. Provisions about regularity of shipments are to be further discussed. Subject to these provisions, the pressure of the market will be allowed to influence the level of imports.

The increase in the minimum price for the coming year is 2 shillings 6 pence (about 35 cents per cwt.). But when prices in the United Kingdom market are above the guaranteed price, a percentage of the difference reverts to Denmark.

Current wholesale prices in the United Kingdom for Danish bacon range from 285 shillings (\$30.30) to 293 shillings per cwt. (\$31.92), depending on domestic retail prices. These prices remained practically unchanged from August 28--September 16, and were expected to remain about the same for the immediate future.

The long-term contract provides for a minimum shipment of bacon from Denmark of not less than 90 percent of exportable surplus, and, unless otherwise agreed, a maximum in the third year of 200,000 tons.

The quantity of bacon shipped in the current year ending October 1 will be about 220,000 tons.



## BRITAIN SUCCESSFUL IN TB ERADICATION IN CATTLE

The United Kingdom, where numerous breeds of American cattle originated has reported important progress in the elimination of bovine tuberculosis from cattle. At the end of June 1955, there were about 5.3 million cattle in attested (Certified T.B.-free) herds in Great Britain, as against 2.25 million in October 1950; an increase of 135 percent in less than 5 years. Over half the cattle in the country are now in attested herds, with 46 percent in England, 76 percent in Wales, and 74 percent in Scotland. Approximately 1,880,000 head or one-fifth of the total cattle numbers in Great Britain will be in Attested Areas as of October 1, 1955.

The four Eradication Areas, declared on March 1, 1955, are now being added to the existing Attested Areas. At the present rate of progress it is hoped that the country will be free of bovine tuberculosis in about the next 10 years.

## MEXICAN LARD PURCHASES DOWN

Mexico imported 7.9 million pounds of lard during the first 6 months of this year as compared with 12.7 million pounds for a corresponding period a year earlier. Other types of fat declined from 35.5 million pounds to 25.7 million.

Beef exports by Mexico declined from 22.6 to 15.2 million pounds. Live cattle exports rose from 5,000 head during the first 6 months of last year to 214,000 head during the first 6 months of this year.

## LARD SITUATION IN PERU

Production of lard in Peru in 1954 was estimated at 19.2 million pounds. Based on an upward trend in hog numbers of about 3 percent annually, Peruvian hogs may account for slightly less than 19.8 million pounds of pork fat in 1955.

Among Peruvian imports of fats and oils, lard continues to hold the predominant position. The United States, principal exporter of lard to Peru in 1953, was also the source of more than half of the lard imported in 1954. This, however, does not take into account the substantial imports from Holland of a substance called lard compound. According to some reports, it is made by mixing tallow of United States origin with lard of Western European origin for transshipment to Peru. Imports of this item were stopped a year ago, when it was declared by the Government to be unacceptable for human consumption. The principal sources of lard, other than the United States, have been Argentina and Holland. (Cont'd., next page.)

Lard imports have been substantial in 1955, with Argentina the principal source during the early months of the year. Imports, in recent months, have come mainly from the United States and Holland. Peru's over-all production of fats and oils has declined. Careful study indicates that there is little prospect of increasing the annual production of these types of commodities for the next several years. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Peruvian diets have been chronically short in fats and oils.

In an effort to encourage imports, the Peruvian Government is constructing storage facilities for all types of edible fats and oils. Import charges on pure lard, refined and unrefined, consist of a 7.667-percent surtax and a 2-percent maritime tax. It is expected that these will be further reduced in order to encourage consumption. The low consumer purchasing power in that country is a major barrier to increased consumption.

Of some significance is the wide spread between prices of lard and the prices of vegetable shortening.

Prices of selected fats and oils in Lima, Peru, July 1955

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Soles per unit</u>	<u>U.S. cents per lb.</u>
Lard			
Local	kg.	8.50	20.08
Imported	kg.	8.40	19.84
Vegetable shortening	600 c.c.	6.60	15.59
Cottonseed Cooking Oil	600 c.c.	4.30	18.27
Margarine	kg.	7.30	17.25

The predominant position of lard in the volume of imports since 1950 suggests a strong preference for this product for many household uses. It is believed that Peru could import an additional 6,600,000 pounds of lard. The Peruvian Government has indicated a willingness to construct additional storage facilities if needed.

In 1953 Peru consumed 39 million pounds of all types of animal fat (except butter); and in 1954, 33.2 million pounds. The forecast consumption for 1955 is 34.1 million pounds. The per capita consumption for these years is: 1953 -- 4.30 pounds; 1954 -- 3.65; and 1955 (forecast) -- 3.76. The figures for United States per capita consumption of lard alone are 11.3 pounds; 10.2; and forecast 10.3.



SPAIN INCREASES WHEAT SUPPORT  
PRICES OVER LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

Official prices for Spain's 1955 wheat crop were recently fixed by the Spanish Government at an average of 409 pesetas per 100 kilograms (\$2.86 per bushel) compared with last year's average of 391 pesetas (\$2.73 per bushel). The Government's prices for this year's crop are generally higher than those fixed for any of the three preceding seasons. Just as in 1953-54, when fixed prices were increased over those of the preceding year because of a poor crop caused by drought, the increase this year is attributed to a lower-than-normal crop as a result of drought.

See table below. Text continues, next page.

Spanish wheat support prices, 1952-53 through 1955-56

Types of Wheat	1952-53		1953-54		1954-55		1955-56	
	Pesetas	Dollars	Pesetas	Dollars	Pesetas	Dollars	Pesetas	Dollars
	1/	2/	1/	2/	1/	2/	1/	2/
Aragon and special wheats, fine spring, and fine white type wheat	380	2.61	402	2.81	402	2.81	425	2.97
Hard, high-grade, and similar wheats	380	2.61	392	2.74	392	2.74	417	2.91
Ordinary white and similar wheats	375	2.57	392	2.74	392	2.74	417	2.91
Semi-course, semi-hard, or soft red or white wheats.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	407	2.84
Low-grade red and similar wheats.....	360	2.47	377	2.63	377	2.63	377	2.63
Average.....	374	2.57	391	2.73	391	2.73	409	2.86

1/ Per 100 kilograms

2/ Per bushel

This year's crop is substantially under the large crop harvested last year. Lack of rainfall and the resulting dry condition of the soil last fall greatly delayed seeding of winter grain. This year's harvest was further affected by the heat and drought that prevailed during most of last spring and summer. The Spanish Minister of Agriculture announced on July 30 that although the 1955 crop would yield less than requirements, little if any wheat imports would be necessary because of existing stocks.

Instead of fixing prices for 4 types of wheat, as in former years, the Spanish Government this year established a price for each of 5 types on the basis of quality variations. These are shown in the table on page 411. Each wheat type must conform to specified weight and moisture requirements. The indicated prices are those which the Government will pay for homegrown wheat sold from June 1 to October 31, 1955. Premiums will be paid for wheat sold after that date.

For wheat sold during the period November 1, 1955, to April 20, 1956, farmers will receive a premium of 2 pesetas per 100 kilograms (1.4 cents per bushel) for each calendar month that the grain is held unsold after November 1. For example, a farmer selling wheat in December will receive the price prescribed for the quality of his grain plus 4 pesetas per 100 kilograms (2.8 cents per bushel).

These premiums represent a payment to compensate for storage and maintenance costs beyond November 1. They are the same as those applicable during the three preceding marketing seasons except that in 1952-53 the payments extended through all of April and May. The premiums then were 11 pesetas per 100 kilograms for sales made during April, and 12 pesetas for sales during May. In the current season the premium payments period expires April 20.

The deadline for marketing 1955-56 crop wheat is April 20, 1956. Spanish farmers must sell to the National Wheat Service all the wheat they produce above the quantities required out of each crop for their own use. They are not permitted to use wheat for animal feed. The quantities that they may retain out of each crop for food for themselves and the members of their households, including hired help, is subject to per capita maxima established by law. The National Wheat Service has authority to designate lower per capita quantities, if deemed necessary. The National Wheat Service resells the wheat for domestic use at margins fixed by law to cover such items as cost of administration.

#### GERMAN REPUBLIC TO IMPORT PULSES

Individual import licensing of pulses (excluding seeds) was announced by the German Republic recently. No value limit was stated, although license applications may be filed at any time up to June 30, 1956. A special regulation governing lima beans prohibits imports of those containing more than 10 milligrams of pharmacologically active prussic acid per 100 grams of raw beans.



# COTTON CONSUMPTION DECLINES IN DENMARK

Cotton consumption in Denmark during the August-July 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 40,000 bales (500 pounds gross) down about 9 percent from the 44,000-bale consumption in the previous year. The decline is attributed to increased textile imports and new excise taxes on clothing, as well as a tendency in consumers' purchasing habits to change to more durable consumer goods now that the postwar deficit in clothing supplies has been overcome.

Denmark's cotton imports in 1954-55 amounted to 38,000 bales, down 12 percent from imports of 43,000 bales in 1953-54. Imports from the United States were 22,000 bales or 58 percent of the total for 1954-55, as compared with 23,000 bales or 53 percent of the total in 1953-54. Increased imports are noted from Peru and Syria, to offset a decline in imports from Egypt.

DENMARK: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;  
average 1934-38; annual 1951-54

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)						
Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Average	1951	1952	1953	1954	
	1934-38					
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Egypt.....	1/	0	1	5	2	
Peru.....	1/	8	10	3	7	
Syria.....	1/	0	0	0	3	
United Kingdom.....	3	0	0	6	0	
United States.....	35	37	33	23	22	
U.S.S.R.....	1/	0	0	3	2	
Other countries....	I	2	0	3	2	
Total.....	39	47	44	43	33	

1/ If any, included in "Other countries".

Compiled from Danmarks Vareindførsel og-Udførsel and official reports.

There are about 100,000 ring spindles in the Danish textile industry; mule spindles are no longer used. Mill activity in the three mills in Denmark at present is one shift for one mill, two shifts for the second mill, and three shifts for the third.

Cotton stocks in Denmark on August 1, 1955, were reported at 6,000 bales, down about 25 percent from the 8,000 bales held a year earlier. The reduced stock level is expected to continue, reflecting the downward trend in mill consumption and reluctance on the part of mill operators to rebuild stocks under present conditions of price instability.

## CUBA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION INCREASES SLIGHTLY

Consumption of approximately 32,500 bales of cotton (500 pounds gross) in Cuba during the August-July 1954-55 year represents an increase of 5 percent over the 31,000 bales consumed in 1953-54. Consumption in 1955-56 is expected to be slightly larger than in the previous year; or around 33,500 bales if there are no lengthy work stoppages from labor disputes and no deterioration in the country's economy. There were no serious labor stoppages during 1954-55 or 1953-54.

Cotton production in Cuba has been limited to experimental plantings on one or two farms. The output for 1954-55 amounted to 300 bales of lint cotton as compared with 1,500 bales in 1953-54. No significant expansion is expected in 1955-56 and production is not expected to exceed 1,000 bales. Only 400 acres of cotton were planted in 1954-55 as compared with 1,700 during the previous season. Irregular rainfall during the growing period, excessive rainfall during harvest season, poor drainage, and difficulty in control of grass and weeds are the principal reasons for disappointing results obtained from the experimental plantings. Production of cotton on a commercial basis is not expected until a satisfactory solution of these problems has been found.

Cuba's cotton imports in 1954-55 amounted to 32,100 bales as compared with 31,700 bales in 1953-54. Most of the cotton consumed in Cuba is imported from the United States. Only three firms imported cotton during 1954-55 or the previous year. No cotton is bought or sold locally as the domestic cotton is produced on farms owned by textile mills, and the cotton was consumed in their mills. All imports were made directly by the textile mills for utilization at their own mills. C.I.F. costs are reportedly  $4\frac{1}{4}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, net; above New York market quotations; and there is an additional consular fee of 80 cents per bale.

Cuba's cotton stocks on August 1, 1955, were reported at 7,000 bales--approximately the same as the quantity held a year earlier.

## CANADA BUYING MORE MEXICAN COTTON

A recent report from Canada indicates that Canadian cotton mills have been actively buying Mexican cotton in the last few weeks, with price quotations for the better grades ranging from 3 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound lower than those for comparable United States qualities. Even wider spreads are reported for the lower grades. It has also been reported that many mills have purchased their requirements through March 1956, and that favorable quotations from Guatemala and Nicaragua were being received for cotton for delivery in April and May 1956.

The United States traditionally has been the principal source of cotton for Canada, supplying approximately 300,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 92 percent of total imports during the 11 months August-June 1954-55, and 215,000 bales or 84 percent of the total in the comparable period of 1953-54.



# STATUS OF PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT TOBACCO MONOPOLY

A law was passed on June 17, 1955, for liquidation of the Peruvian Government Tobacco Monopoly (Estanco del Tabaco), but the law will not be put into operation until detailed regulations are issued. In the meantime the cigarette factory and other operations of the Estanco continue as they have in the past. Moreover, the entire scale of prices of tobacco products sold by the Estanco has been recently substantially increased, showing that the Monopoly is still active. The reason for these price increases is reportedly because of the recent increases in cost of both national and imported cigarettes and tobaccos -- while resale prices have remained unchanged.

Prices of leading American brands of cigarettes have been increased from 6 soles (31.6 cents) to 7 soles (36.8 cents), and king-size cigarettes have been increased from 6.50 soles (34.2 cents) to 7.50 soles (39.5 cents). A comparable percentage increase has been made in the leading nationally produced cigarettes, containing North American tobacco. Increases in the lower priced local brands of cigarettes have been as much as 50 percent.

As the law providing for liquidation of the Estanco in large degree has been brought about by dissatisfaction of tobacco planters with purchasing policies of the Estanco, it is likely that pressure from the planters may eventually hasten liquidation of the Monopoly.

# SCOTTISH, RUSSIAN CO-OPS AGREE TO TRADE WHEAT, WOOLENS

An agreement for exchange of Scottish woolen fabrics for Soviet wheat has been concluded in London between the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society and the Central Association of Consumers' Cooperatives of the USSR (Tsentsosoyuz). Quantities were not mentioned.

# IRELAND INCREASES IMPORT DUTY ON MARGARINE

The customs duty on imports of margarine into Ireland has been increased from 3d. per pound (3.5 cents) for all countries to 50 percent ad valorem, effective September 16, 1955. A preferential rate of 33-1/3 percent ad valorem applies to imports from the United Kingdom and Canada.

## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM FINISHES FISCAL YEAR

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## SWISS TRADE IN DAIRY PRODUCTS

The two items under the above headlines were published in the October 3, 1955, issue of Foreign Crops and Markets (p.377), but were not listed under "Contents" on the front cover.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request  
from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S.  
Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Export Possibilities for United States Meat Products. Foreign Ag. Circ.

Marketing Poultry Products in Venezuela. Foreign Ag. Circ. FPE-13-55.

Foreign Agricultural Trade Digest: September 1955

Italy as a Market for U.S. Farm Products. Foreign Ag. Circ. FATP-35-55

Northern European Market Situation of Walnuts and Filberts. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-9-55

1955 World Filbert Crop Down Sharply. Foreign Ag. Circ. FN-10-55

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L A T E    N E W S

Although hurricane "Janet" bypassed the Jamaica mainland, the high winds damaged the banana crop in some sections. Jamaica is one of the larger banana exporting countries of Middle America. The total damage to the banana crop was assessed at about 12 percent. Early reports indicate severe damage to the banana crop in Trinidad. Trinidad is one of the smaller producers.

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See additional LATE NEWS, pp. 392 and 403

